



## Art and design- meet the subject leader

It is an exciting privilege to have the role of art and design lead in West Rainton Primary School. I am returning to the role in 2021-22 after previously holding the role in my earlier teaching career.

We are proud to have held Artsmark Award for over 15 years now, which began with my application for silver, then subsequent gold status which we've retained ever since. This year, we have submitted our intention to be Artsmark Platinum, so, as well as the subject of art and design, I get to oversee the wider arts provision in school too. This allows me to work collaboratively with the English lead (drama), music lead and PE lead (dance) to ensure the arts provision at West Rainton is engaging, vibrant and ambitious.

We have excellent extra-curricular provision in the arts, including dance and drama clubs, making use of external professional coaches to enhance our work in school too.

Alongside that, I am also a qualified Arts Award assessor at Discover and Explore levels which means our pupils in Y3-6 have regular opportunities to work on additional accreditation in this subject area. This is also a brilliant opportunity to identify gifted and talented learners with an additional pathway of study.

In the subject of art and design, I am particularly passionate about encouraging the children to make choices for themselves in how they wish to express their ideas. I am also always looking for opportunities for the children to learn from artists and art venues, as well as exhibiting their own work with a wider audience.

Across the years, I have planned for the children to experience and explore a range of media, art styles and artists/craftspeople to broaden their ideas and build up their skills. Learners also get the opportunity to explore potential careers and further study from their primary art experiences.

Mrs Alison McDonough